

## The DC VA Medical Consultation Service 2017-2018 (updated 2/7/18)

### Welcome to the Washington DC VA Medical Center!

- Please report to Medical Service, 4A155, for orientation with the chief medical residents on the first day at 8:00 AM. At this time you will pick up the consult sign-out and consult pager from the night float physician. You will also receive:
  - A brief computer training (how to log in to CPRS to answer consults, write notes, obtain clinical information, and maintain the sign-out sheet using Handoff)
  - Orientation to the VAMC website, including how to find pager numbers and the monthly on call schedules and ward rosters (the designated weekday consult attending will be identified on the monthly ward roster)
  - The **VA consult pager (9-259-3286)**.
  - There is a computer for your use in 4D204, door code: 3-2-1.

### Rotation Objectives:

- Develop problem-oriented, evidence-based recommendations for non-medical clinical services at the DC VAMC which desire advice on management of medical issues or pre-operative assessment.
- Form collaborative relations with the housestaff on other services will greatly improve your experience, reduce inappropriate calls, increase your role as a true consultant, and improve patient care
- Learn the principles and problems of interface medicine, including development of professional and social skills necessary for effective interdisciplinary communication and patient care.
- Refine diagnostic and management skills of medical problems in patients on non-medical wards.
- Learn the principles of effective pre- and peri-operative risk assessment and differential diagnosis, including preoperative cardiac assessment and DVT prophylaxis; learn the principles and management of post-operative complications.

### Schedule for the month:

- New consults will print out in the small printer in the Medical Service copy room. Please check this printer multiple times daily to make sure you do not miss new consults. Attendings can also check electronically for new consults.
- You should see old consults in the morning.
- Daily attendance/participation in PM report and noon conference (daily from 12-1pm) in the Medical Service conference room.
- In addition to the above educational activities, there is a consult curriculum, which provides a required program of study. Please see **Medicine Consult Curriculum**.

*Other conferences/clinics you can attend if schedule/consults permit:*

- **Monday AM** is outpt pre-op cardiology clinic (page VA 3722 on Monday am to see if patients are scheduled – not always)
- **Tuesday 3:00 PM** is combined pulmonary/CT surgery/oncology tumor board in the Medical Service Conference Room
- **Thursday AM** is cardiology valve clinic (page VA 3644 on Thurs AM to see if patients are scheduled)

### Primary Responsibilities:

- You are expected to see Internal Medicine Inpatient Consults from **8:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday**. You will carry the VA consult pager (see above for pager #) during this time.

- You may receive a consult request by being paged, but you should also check the printer in the Medical Service copy room.
- After seeing the patient initially, you should discuss the case with the consult attending & write up the consult in the computer, listing the attending as a cosigner. The attending is expected to see the patient within 24 hours.
- You should then follow the patient on a daily basis until it is appropriate to sign off after discussion with the attending.
- Rounds will generally be at either around 10am or 1pm with the consult attending depending on their schedule and your clinic schedule. If an urgent matter develops with a new or old consult or if you think a patient needs to be transferred to another service, do not hesitate to contact the attending.
- If another service wants to transfer a patient to medicine, they must be seen by the consult resident first. Review the chart, see the patient, decide if a transfer is appropriate and if they would truly benefit from being transferred to medicine, and discuss with the consult attending.
  - If you are accepting the patient to medicine:
    - Inform the primary service that the patient has been accepted.
    - Call the admissions office to get a bed (x54180, x57152) and ask for medicine team number assignment. If the patient is a bounceback to a medicine team, please let the admissions office know. If the patient needs a new bed, please let admissions know and you may have to coordinate with Bed Board to get an appropriate medicine bed.
    - Once provided with this information, you should call the medicine team to sign out the patient.
    - If there is delay in transfer, please also write a brief note describing the patient's course and need for transfer. This note will be used to communicate the reason for transfer to the primary team in your absence.
  - If the transfer is not accepted (after discussion with the consult/on-call attending), advise the primary service accordingly, and continue to treat the patient as a consult (give recommendations as appropriate).
- Ask the consulting team whether they would prefer for you to leave recommendations only, or would prefer for you to write orders yourself.
- When you have clinic, you may sign out to the on-call medicine admitting resident at noon. The admitting resident can be reached at VA pager 3822.
- Your patients are covered during nights, weekends and holidays by the on-call medicine resident. **Only urgent consults will be seen during this time period.** You are expected to take over the case the following weekday morning. You will pass off the pager and census sign-out each day at 4:00pm to the long-call resident. You should retrieve the pager/sign-out in the morning by 8:00am.
- You are responsible for maintaining an up-to-date census daily on the CPRS Handoff system (see chief residents for instruction). This census should be printed out every afternoon and passed on to the long-call resident. **If a consult needs attention (or tests followed up, etc.) at night or on weekends, emphasize this on the sign out (as well as verbally) to the long-call resident.**
- You are not responsible for outpatient medicine consults.

#### How to Write Consult Notes:

- Due to constraints in CPRS, you should use a progress note to complete the consult. To pull up this note template, go to the "Notes" tab. Under "action" menu, select "New Progress Note." Use the "MED <MED: INPATIENT PROGRESS NOTE>" template. Again, remember to identify the appropriate attending as the "expected cosigner".
- If a patient is accepted as a transfer to medical service, after discussion with the attending, a brief consult note can be entered or the consult can be discontinued.
- Your attending should close the official consult request.

### Important reminders:

- Round and write notes on every patient daily.
- Always see and evaluate urgent requests immediately.
- Notify an attending of new/urgent consults, especially pre-operative evaluations, in time for an attending to staff ALL patients prior to going to the OR.

### Tips:

- Perform new consultations promptly.
- Obtain complete history/ROS/exam, appropriate testing, and write a clear analysis of the medical condition with your recommendation.
- You are not limited to the small amount of space on the consult form – continue on a new progress note if necessary.
- Convey your recommendations to the primary team verbally when possible.
- Maintain contact with the requesting MD after the initial consultation and after any significant changes in therapy. When **signing off** on a patient, please have a discussion with the consulting service.
- There is no such thing as a “bogus consult”. Keep in mind, you are being asked to HELP patients on other services, so your approach should be that of PROFESSIONALISM and COLLABORATION.

### Important Numbers:

- **Consult Director:** Dr. Ribka Ayana 4E-105, 202-745-8000 x56639; cell 717-314-3434
- **Program Support Assistant:** Evangeline Kokkinos, [Evangeline.Kokkinos@va.gov](mailto:Evangeline.Kokkinos@va.gov), 202-745-8000 x58471
- **Chief Residents**
  - Kanika Gupta ([Kanika.Gupta2@va.gov](mailto:Kanika.Gupta2@va.gov)): 202-745-8000 x56821
  - Dianne Thompson ([Dianne.Thompson3@va.gov](mailto:Dianne.Thompson3@va.gov)): 202-745-8000 x58392
  - Shaheer Khan ([Shaheer.Khan@va.gov](mailto:Shaheer.Khan@va.gov)): 202-745-8000 x55464
  - Justin Beckett ([Justin.Beckett@va.gov](mailto:Justin.Beckett@va.gov)): 202-745-8000 x54521
  - Chiefs email: [dcvamcchiefs@gmail.com](mailto:dcvamcchiefs@gmail.com)
- Admissions: 54180, 57152
- Bed Board: 57886
- Ortho Pas: Corey Brown (VA pager 0922) and Mark Smith (VA pager 0777)
- Vascular surgery PA: Chantal Perrier-Taylor (VA pager 3953)
- **Medicine Team Room Numbers**
  - Team 1: 55027/55028
  - Team 2: 57714/55054
  - Team 3: 57138/57139
  - Team 4: 57036 /56993
  - Team 5: 57037/54179
  - Team 6: 58738
  - Or call Vocera at x58899 and say “Medicine Team 1”